



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Governor

Anthony G. Brown
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Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

February 4, 2009

Maggie McIntosh, Chairperson
Members, House Environmental Matters Committee
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21403

Re: HB 34 - Environment – Impervious Surface – Statewide Database

Dear Chairperson McIntosh & Members:

HB 34 - Environment – Impervious Surface – Statewide Database proposes that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), develop and maintain a database of impervious surface in the State. The detrimental impact of stormwater runoff on the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland's critical water resources is a growing concern, and we applaud Delegate Cardin's efforts to address this problem at its source: an ever expanding developed landscape that is covered with impervious surfaces.

MDE shares the desire to enact better controls on stormwater pollution, however the Department has concerns about the potential fiscal impact of this legislation and believes that the development of this database may divert limited resources away from the our current efforts to address the impact of urban and suburban stormwater on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The development of this database would, in our view, require additional resources and personnel to review, assess and evaluate all of the data that would be required to be collected from local government. MDE estimates that this database would cost up to \$771,000 to initially develop and over \$400,000 to maintain on an annual basis.

MDE currently requires, through the issuing of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal stormwater permits, an assessment and implementation of watershed restoration of existing developed areas in most of the developed areas of Maryland. Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Harford, Howard, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince Georges Counties and the State Highway Administration are all required, as a condition of their discharge permits, to assess and mitigate the impact of increased stormwater discharges that results from new impervious surfaces. The Department is also working



The Honorable Maggie McIntosh

Page Two

with MDP to analyze urban land use information from *MdProperty View* as part of the development of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirement being completed by EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues as you review HB 34. Please contact me or Lisa Nissley, Legislative Liaison, at 410-260-6301 if you would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Sincerely,



Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Cc: Heather Barthel

